

REMARKS

The indication that claims 1-5, 8 and 12-20 have been allowed is acknowledged with thanks. Further, the indication that claims 23, 24, 30 and 32 include patentable subject matter is also acknowledged with thanks. In reliance thereon, claim 9 has been amended by adding the subject matter of claims 22 and 23 thereto. Claims 21-23 have been canceled to place the application in condition for allowance.

Claims 9, 21-22, 25-29, 31 and 33 were rejected as anticipated by SUZUKI et al. 6,547,361, and claims 10-11 were rejected as unpatentable over SUZUKI et al. in view of ITOYAMA et al. 6,488,353. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested in view of the present amendment in which the claims have either been canceled or amended to include allowable subject matter.

In view of the present amendment, it is believed that the present amendment has been placed in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any

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overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional  
fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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